

REMARKS

Several editorial amendments have been made to the specification. Claims 1 - 2, 4 - 5, 7, 9, 14, 21 - 27, 29 - 30, 33 - 34, 36 - 37, 41, 48 - 54, 57 - 60, 62, 67 - 68, and 73 - 81 have been amended. Claims 82 - 91 have been added. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments or added claims, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 91 are now in the application.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated March 18, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 21, 48, and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, enabling a user to establish a connection to a Uniform Resource Locator ("URL") that is within a voice mail message is questioned in the Office Action, and reference is made to pages 12 - 13 of Applicants' specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed subject matter is described in their specification in such a way as to enable one of skill in the art to make and/or use the invention, as will now be described.

A caller may speak a URL when leaving a voice mail message, and a voice recognition system may then determine the characters comprising that URL. A caller with a screen phone or Web-enabled cellular phone might use a touch-sensitive display to provide a URL. Use of voice

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recognition, screen phones, and Web-enabled cellular phones is discussed in Applicants' specification as originally filed. See, for example, p. 10, line 17 - p. 11, line 2 and p. 16, lines 5 - 7. Or, a caller might have equipment that is configured to automatically transmit a URL to the voice messaging system ("VMS"). See p. 11, lines 2 - 5 of Applicants' specification.

In the voice recognition scenario, for example, once the characters in the URL have been interpreted, that information can be sent to a component (such as a browser) which will use the characters as input to a connection establishment process. In scenarios where the URL is provided through a touch-sensitive display or is automatically transmitted, a browser-type component may use the provided information directly to establish a connection.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §112 rejection.

Applicants further note that in contrast to the analysis of Claims 21, 48, and 73 provided on pages 8 - 9 of the Office Action, Applicants do not claim that leaving a URL in a spoken voice mail message, and then having the listener type that URL into a browser, is part of their invention. Thus, the term "automatically" has been inserted into these claims with the amendments made herein. (See, for example, p. 13, lines 9 - 10 of Applicants' specification, where this is discussed.)

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 7, 14 - 20, 22 - 23, 28 - 32, 33 - 37, 41 - 47, 52 - 62, 68 - 72, and 77 - 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being

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anticipated by U. S. Patent 6,625,261 to Holtzberg. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Holtzberg's teachings pertain to actions taken by a listener to mark a location within an already-recorded voice mail message, while that listener is playing back the recorded message. See, for example, lines 2 - 3 of Holtzberg's Abstract ("... bookmark voicemail messages during message playback"); reference numbers 24, 26, 28 of Fig. 1, where the user requests message playback (i.e., of an already-stored message) and then sets bookmarks to be stored with that message; col. 1, lines 63 - 64; and col. 2, lines 7 - 19. In particular, lines 10 - 14 of col. 2 explain that Holtzberg's user accesses a voicemail box where "there are voicemail messages stored for the user", who then "requests message playback" and "During playback of the message, the user can enter a command to set a voicemail bookmark". Col. 3, lines 45 - 57 also specify that the user sets a bookmark "[d]uring message playback" (line 47) and that the bookmark setting is for a "stored voice message being played back" (lines 56 - 57).

Applicants have amended their independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 to more clearly specify that the bookmarks are provided by a "caller leaving a voice mail message" (that is, by the caller, not the listener). This is supported throughout Applicants' specification as originally filed. See, for example, Fig. 1, which illustrates caller 100 providing several bookmarks for a voice mail message (such as "new topic" bookmarks 106 and 112).

Applicants respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 are patentable over Holtzberg's teachings, and that dependent Claims 2 - 7, 14 - 20, 22 - 23, 28 - 32, 34 - 37, 41

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- 47, 52 - 56, 58 - 62, 68 - 72, and 77 - 81 are therefore patentable as well. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action states that Claims 8 - 13, 21, 24 - 27, 39 - 40 (later stated as 38 - 40), 48 - 51, 64 - 65 (later stated as 63 - 65), and 73 - 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent 6,625,261 to Holtzberg. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Applicants submit that their independent Claims 1, 33, and 57 are patentable over Holtzberg. Dependent Claims 8 - 13, 21, 24 - 27, 38 - 40, 48 - 51, 63 - 65, and 73 - 76 are therefore patentable as well. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejection.

IV. Claim 66

Applicants find no discussion of dependent Claim 66, and presume that it is therefore patentable as originally presented.

V. Conclusion

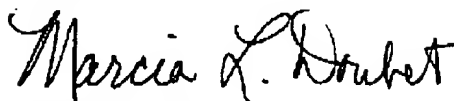
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

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Respectfully submitted,



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